

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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Meeting Summary

February 18, 2011

Members Present – Gwendolyn Coates, Chair, Cynthia Andrews, Karen Kent, Marti Lindeman, Michael Lusk (Appointment Pending), Rowena Rye, Helen Sikov, Jeannine Skinner (Appointment Pending)

Members Excused: Rose Floyd, Anthony Shoecraft

Guests: Dannette Smith, HSD Director, Senait Brown & Nadine Myambi, Statewide Poverty Action Network

Staff – Karen Winston

I. Draft HSD Healthy Communities, Healthy Families Strategic Plan

HSD Director Dannette Smith joined MCAAE members and presented an overview of the draft HSD Strategic Plan. The plan is intended to supplement the current restructuring of the department. The three components of the plan include:

1) Programs and Services; 2) Constituent Feedback; and 3) Data and Evaluation. Goals of the plan include:

1. Create a Proactive, Seamless Service System
2. Strengthen and Expand Partnerships
3. Engage and Partner with the Community
4. Use Data-Driven Design and Evaluation

Members provided the following questions and comments:

- Those with little or no voices need a way to be heard. Is there a way to reach frail, homebound elders? Response: The department is looking into a questionnaire for Case Managers who make home visits. Telephone surveys are another possibility.
- Are you planning to use videos or social networks such as Facebook to reach the homebound? Response: The department will soon be launching a new website and we are open to suggestions for reaching people.
- Can HSD develop a PSA around input for the Strategic Plan? Response: Yes, we're also looking into developing a PSA.
- Re data – Many agencies in communities of color are more relational than data-driven. Will there be training to assist with collecting/reporting data? Response: Yes
- Informing people about available programs and services is critical and ongoing.
- The City has engaged people in the past, but reaching African American elders is critical, and trust and buy-in are important.

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:

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- Many agencies are under umbrella agencies. Perhaps a special meeting involving agencies that serve African American elders should be organized to get input on the plan. (e.g. The African American Elders Program; Central Area Senior Center; Southeast Seattle Senior Center; CAMP and the Odessa Brown Clinic)
- The plan needs accountability measures spelled out in dollars and timelines.
- Overall the plan sounds good and makes sense.
- The plan seems to value the collective voice of the community.
- In the current Caregivers RFI through ADS, I can see the plan reflected in the RFI requirements.

II. **Committee Updates**

Recruitment Update – Gwendolyn reported that two individuals who would like to be appointed were interviewed. They were Jeannine Skinner and Michael Lusk.

Jeannine is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington, School of Medicine. Her research interests focus on the protective effects of diet and exercise on dementia risk and Alzheimer's disease progression.

Michael is a doctoral student at Oregon State University. His area of concentration is geriatric psychology and counseling. Formerly an employee with Senior Services, Michael has years of experience as an Information and Assistance advocate.

A motion was made/second/approved to forward both names to Mayor McGinn for recommended appointment. Karen W. will forward the paperwork by the end of the month.

Legislative Advocacy – Anthony scheduled a presentation regarding advocacy by the Statewide Poverty Action Network (SPAN). The Network was formed in 2004 and works to give non-profit social service agencies a forum for addressing the issue of institutional racism within their organizations and the broader community. SPAN representatives Senait Brown and Nadine Myambi provided many handouts about their organization and briefly discussed the top five ways to effectively advocate:

1. Join an existing advocacy group.
2. Meet with legislators.
3. Engage in social networks to inform and garner support.
4. Advertise your issues by creating factsheets of the issue.
5. Communicate – Discuss what's happening with everyone you come in contact with.

Clergy Workshop – Gwendolyn reminded members about the February 22 workshop, scheduled to begin at 9:30, at Greater New Bethel Missionary Church, 5279 Rainier Ave. So. Marti distributed a handout that provides a brief synopsis of the MCAAE. The handout will be included in their packets. Members were asked to arrive at 9:00 a.m.

Digital Communications Committee – Marti reported that the MCAAE Facebook Page is being enhanced with pictures of elders and MCAAE members. She encouraged members to review it and provide feedback.

III. Announcements

Rowena announced that planning for the 2011 African American Caregivers Conference is underway. This year the conference will be held October 22, at the Southcenter Doubletree Inn.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The March meeting will be the Annual Retreat. All members are encouraged to attend.

Date: Friday, March 18, 2011

Time: 9 to 2:30 p.m.

Location: SMT 60th Floor, Room 6030